(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pact with Russia for combating terrorism

644. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Russia have signed a pact on combating terrorism and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of this pact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the Agreement are to develop interaction in the field of combating crime against life, freedom, dignity of the person and property and to combat organised and international crime, terrorist activities; to combat illicit operations with weapons, ammunition, explosives, toxic substances and radioactive materials; to combat illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; to combat manufacture and sale of forged documents, money and securities; to combat crimes connected with economic activities; to combat illicit operations with precious stones and metals; prevention of illegal migration as well as illicit stay of persons and to combat illicit trade etc.

Opening of offices in South Africa

645. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open foreign offices in South Africa;

(b) if so, whether the terms and conditions have been worked out with the visiting South African team; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) During the visit to India by South African Foreign Minister, Mr. R. F. Botha, from November 21-22, 1993. India and South Africa signed two protocols, one on the establishment of diplomatic relations and the other on the establishment of consular relations. As a result thereof, it has been decided to upgrade the existing Indian Cultural Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, into a Consulate General. Plans for offices in Durban and Pretoria are also under consideration. The South African Representative Office in New Delhi is also being upgraded.

Recognition of Sikkim as part of India by China

646. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of recognition of Sikkim as part of India by China, was taken up during Prime Minister's recent visit to China in connection with Sino-India border issue; and

(b) if so, what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India's position that Sikkim is an integral part of India has been conveyed to the Chinese authorities on several occasions including PM's visit to China. The Chinese authorities are therefore aware of India's position and have noted it.

Nuclear explosion test by China

647. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the nuclear explosion test conducted by China recently; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?